

Harris County Probation Department



1957

Annual Report of Services

For Dependent and Neglected Children

For Delinquent Children

Special Services and Custodial Care

PAUL IRICK
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER



N. O. D. SCHOENBACHER
ASST. CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

PROBATION DEPARTMENT
OF
HARRIS COUNTY

1225 ELDER STREET
HOUSTON 10, TEXAS

TO: ALL CITIZENS OF HOUSTON AND HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS' COURT
THE HONORABLE JUVENILE BOARD

The Annual Report for the year 1957 is herewith submitted:—

The Report contains a brief analysis and accounting of the services rendered by the Harris County Probation Department to all of the children referred. We do not attempt to analyze the whole problem of delinquency in our County, but to present the picture as accurately as possible of the number of children who are receiving the service of the Probation Department, and the service of the Juvenile Court.

The program which we endeavor to provide has made much progress in the past year. The citizens of the Community, the Juvenile Board, and the Commissioners' Court have provided us with new Administration and Detention Quarters which will be occupied sometime in the Fall of 1958.

The Churches of all Denominations have made concentrated effort to support and assist us in our task, with facilities and services so necessary in treating the problems of the juvenile offender and the dependent and neglected child.

The efforts of the Juvenile Divisions of the Houston Police Department, the Harris County Sheriff's Department and all law enforcement agencies are commendable in the understanding and service they render the children of our county.

All assistance which we have received in the past year is greatly appreciated. We, again, urge that interest be sustained and aroused in the entire County concerning the problems of all the children who are in need of help and assistance in preventing and treating their problems.

Respectfully submitted,

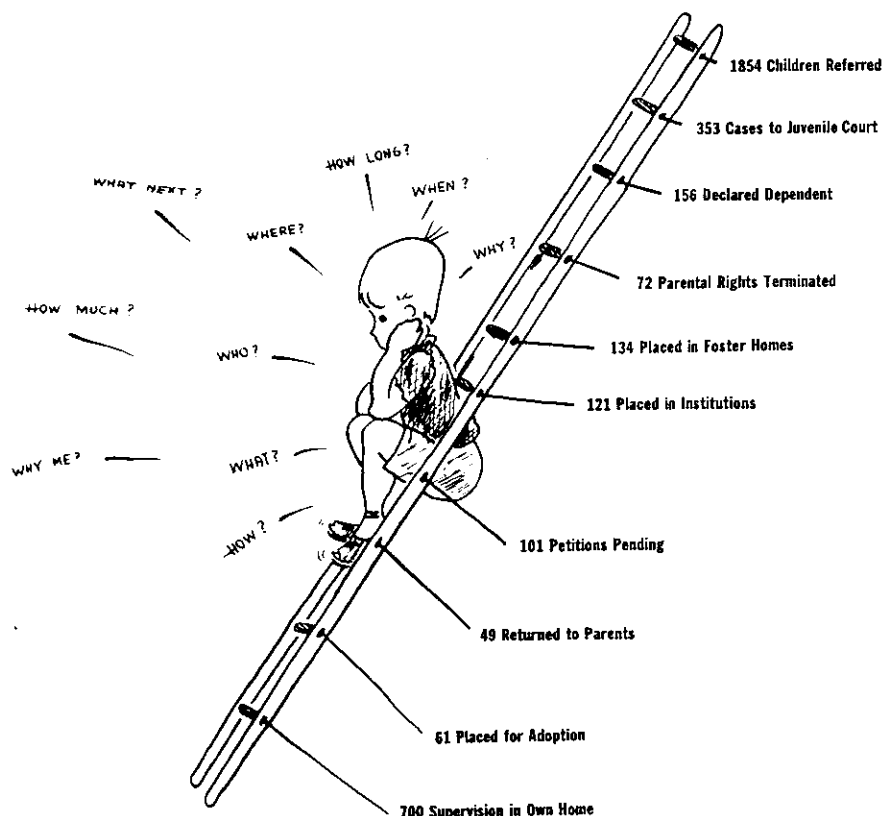
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul Irick".

PAUL IRICK,
Chief Probation Officer

**For Dependent and Neglected Children
For Delinquent Children
Special Services and Custodial Care**

1957

DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILD



REFERRALS:

Anglo-American Children	873
Latin-American Children	511
Negro Children	470

SUMMARY OF ACTION ON DEPENDENCY REFERRALS:

Children active with Department Jan. 1, 1957 **1305**

Children referred during year **1854**

Children active with Department Jan. 1, 1958 **1275**

Plan of care for all children active **1275**

In own home **695**

In home of relative, or guardian **256**

In Boarding Home **148**

In Adoptive Home **30**

In Burnett-Bayland Home For Dependent Children **86**

In State Institution **34**

In Private or Church Institution **26**

SERVICE

Responsible for investigation of all cases of alleged dependent and neglect situations referred by any person or agency.

Responsible for Court processing, pre-Court planning, and post-Court supervision of all children in Foster Homes, County Institutions, private Institutions, State Institutions, or when the children are in their own homes.

Responsible for Emergency Care of all children removed from their homes pending Court and final disposition.

Responsible for finding suitable adoptive homes for placement of children as Court directs.

The casework service to the Dependent and Neglected child offers protection for this child. Its main purpose is to assist the families in maintaining a proper environment for children. When necessary for the Court to remove a child from its parents, to secure such permanent placement for the child, to serve its best interests. Complete care for all children in custody is provided, as well as physical and psychological examination.

For Dependent and Neglected Children
For Delinquent Children

SERVICE TO THE DELINQUENT CHILD

HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY

1957

BOYS - AGE 10-17
GIRLS - AGE 10-18

TOTAL GIRLS REFERRED 690
TOTAL BOYS REFERRED 2,800

GIRLS DETAINED 547
BOYS DETAINED 1,738

318 GIRLS TESTED
610 BOYS TESTED

237 GIRLS TO COURT
760 BOYS TO COURT

32 GIRLS TO GAINESVILLE
51 GIRLS TO CROCKETT
128 BOYS TO GATESVILLE

ON OFFICIAL PROBATION
TO PARENTS OR OTHERS

260 GIRLS
84 BOYS

ON UNOFFICIAL PROBATION
290 GIRLS
401 BOYS

PENDING IN COURT
24 GIRLS
41 BOYS

TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS
24 GIRLS
41 BOYS

ON PAROLE
83 GIRLS
225 BOYS

REFERRALS

THE CHILDREN

By Race:

	BOYS	GIRLS
Anglo-American	1,579	427
Latin-American	455	88
Negro	766	175

By Age:

Ten Years of Age	89	6
Eleven Years of Age	103	16
Twelve Years of Age	170	36
Thirteen Years of Age ..	360	114
Fourteen Years of Age ..	547	159
Fifteen Years of Age	675	155
Sixteen Years of Age	856	132
Seventeen and over		72

By Offense

Auto Theft	399	10
Burglary and Theft	794	57
Robbery	59	1
Bicycle Theft	48	—
Prowling and Petty Theft	385	52
Runaway	476	366
Malicious Mischief	275	3
Forgery	5	1
Sex Offense	75	76
Narcotics	2	1
Truancy	16	5
Traffic	26	—
Injury to Person	26	7
Ungovernable	131	76
Aggravated Assault	32	10
Other	51	25

SERVICE

Responsible for Pre-Court planning and investigation for all children referred.

Responsible for supervision of all children on probation in own homes, State Institutions, private Institutions, and County Institutions.

Responsible for parole services for all children released from the State Schools.

Responsible for the Detention of children awaiting Court hearing and final disposition as ordered by the Court.

The Probation Department, through casework service, endeavors to diagnose the cause of the individual's delinquent behavior, using the techniques and existing facilities for examining the social, mental, and physical components of the child. Through surveillance and treatment the service provides a means of prevention and direction toward rehabilitation.

CUSTODIAL CARE PROGRAM

1957

For Children Placed By the Court

BURNETT-BAYLAND HOME FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN:

Population as of January 1, 1957	83
Children placed in 1957	212
Children removed in 1957	209
Population as of January 1, 1958	86

FOSTER HOMES FOR DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN:

Total number of Children in paid homes, Jan. 1, 1957	100
Total number of Children in Free Homes, Jan. 1, 1957	31
Number placed in paid homes during the year	142
Number placed in free homes during the year	17
Number removed from paid homes during the year	128
Number removed from free homes during the year	13
Total number of children in free and paid homes Jan. 1, 1958 ..	135
Number of Foster homes used, both paid and free	141

EMERGENCY FOSTER CARE FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Number of children placed for emergency care during year	247
Average length of stay in Emergency Homes	12 Days

HARRIS COUNTY BOYS SCHOOL FOR DELINQUENT BOYS

Population as of Jan. 1, 1957	50
Number of boys committed	53
Number of boys released	41
Population as of Jan. 1, 1958	62

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

CUSTODY INVESTIGATIONS ... **125**

The District Court may order such investigations of each party in a divorce action where the Custody of a minor is involved.

ADOPTION INVESTIGATIONS .. **768**

The Law requires an investigation of the adoptive parents and a report on the former antecedents of the child in each case where a petition for adoption is filed.

OUT OF TOWN INQUIRIES **371**

Agencies and Court request evaluation and home studies where children are concerned. These requests originate from other Cities and States and are necessary in completing services.

ADULT TUBERCULOSIS APPLICATIONS **292**

The County Judge requires by Law that each applicant for State Hospital care be certified for eligibility and indigence the Department also provides clothing and transportation to the Institution.

APPLICATIONS FOR STATE SCHOOL FOR FEEBLEMINDED .. **81**

The County Judge requires by Law that applications be processed for commitment to the State Institutions. Pre-Court service and transportation and clothing is furnished for indigent patients. Continued service to the school when patient is accepted.

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR MINOR CHILDREN

Active cases, Jan. 1, 1957	3,688
New cases received during year	1,878
Total number of Children receiving support	11,714
Total funds collected and disbursed	\$2,806,453.04
Total funds collected for children in Boarding homes and Institutions	\$ 7,806.10

When Support payments are ordered for children involved in custody or divorce actions the Probation Department is required to receive, disburse, and account for such monies. Primarily, this is a record of payment for the Court, but the service is extended through counseling and planning with the recipient.

THE HARRIS COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT IS A GOVERNMENTAL CASEWORK AGENCY, SUPPORTED WHOLLY BY TAX FUNDS AND GOVERNED BY STATUTE

THE HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD HAS SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY TO INAUGURATE AND APPROVE THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Harris County Juvenile Board:—

Judge Bob Casey, Chairman
Judge Ewing Boyd
Judge Tom Coleman
Judge Lewis Dickson
Judge Edmund B. Duggan
Judge Wm. M. Holland
Judge Wilmer B. Hunt
Judge Dan W. Jackson
Judge Byron Johnson
Judge Langston G. King
Judge J. W. Mills
Judge Ben Moorhead
Judge Phil Peden
Judge John Snell
Judge Bert Tunks
Judge Ben F. Wilson
Judge A. C. Winborn

THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY HAS BUDGETARY CONTROL OVER ALL PHASES OF OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE INSTITUTIONS.

Harris County Commissioners' Court:—

W. Kyle Chapman
V. V. Ramsey
Philip E. Sayers
E. A. Lyons, Jr.